

Remarks

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 12-19, 21-24 and 26-32 remain pending in this application, claims 10-11 having been cancelled upon entry of this amendment. In addition, new claim 33 is now of record for consideration. In the previous Office Action, claims 7, 8, 16, 27, 28 and 31 were allowed and claims 11 and 12 were indicated to contain allowable subject matter.

The subject matter of claims 10 and 11 has now been incorporated into claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 as well as dependent claims 2-6 and 12-14 should now be allowable.

Independent claim 15 has been amended to call for a set of articles that comprises at least two series. Each article comprises a body with a polymer coating extending over an exterior surface of the body, and the color of the polymer coating presents a non-laser engraved genus identification mark. The product in the container of the first series is different than the product of the container in the second series, and the color of the coating of the articles in the first series is different than the color of the coating of the articles of the second series.

Claim 15 as amended relates to a set of articles wherein the genus identification mark is variable, and wherein the variation is represented by a difference in the color of the coating. Such construction is an advantage, in that the manufacturer is provided an exponential increase in the number of options available for identifying the articles. For example, the genus identification mark can be used to identify product variations of one type, while the species identification mark can be used to identify product variations of another type. The variation in color of the coating can be readily apparent to the end user such that the probability of selecting the wrong product is reduced.

The cited references of record do not teach or otherwise suggest such structure. In the Duis et al. patent, U.S. No. 6,054,090, the brand name is unchanging. There is no suggestion in this reference that the color should be changed to provide a genus identification mark as set out in amended claim 15. Nor is there any suggestion in this reference that the color should vary from one article to the next in order to present a variable genus identification mark to represent different products.

New claim 33 is dependent on claim 15, and is directed toward a set of articles that comprises a product which is a dental material. Antecedent basis for the new language of claims 15 and 33 can be found throughout the specification as filed, including for example the text bridging

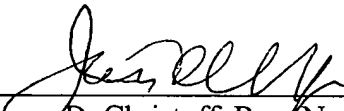
page 6, line 29 to page 7, line 4 of the application as filed. As such, it is believed that there should be no issue of new matter in this regard.

Claim 17 has been amended to include limitations that are comparable to previous claim 11, which was indicated to contain allowable subject matter. The method of claim 17 provides an important advantage in that the energy of the laser beam is less likely to adversely affect the characteristics of the dental material within the container, which may include a light-sensitive material. Duis et al. is directed toward containers for contact lenses and does not suggest methods for manufacturing dental articles.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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